



For Immediate Release

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SAN MANUEL DONATES FUNDS, ROOMS FOR HIGHLAND NEIGHBORS
American Red Cross Assisting Displaced Residents after Floods

Highland, Calif. – December 27, 2010 – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians contributed \$200,000 to the American Red Cross Inland Empire Chapter today to assist area residents with immediate disaster relief services. Recent heavy rains that caused flooding and mudslides impacted more than 100 residences and prompted San Bernardino County and the State of California to issue disaster declarations.

“We are grateful for the partnership between the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, not only in times of disaster, like these historic floods, but also in the foresight of the tribe to ensure that the American Red Cross can respond to disaster whenever it may strike,” explains Yvette Ramos, Chief Operating Officer of the Inland Empire Chapter

In addition to the contribution, San Manuel and the American Red Cross Inland Empire Chapter have established a partnership to provide a block of rooms at the San Manuel Village Hampton Inn and Suites in the City of Highland for residents displaced by the storms. The residents will remain guests at the hotel owned by San Manuel until the mandatory evacuation order has been lifted by local officials.

“Emergency situations often test our resolve as citizens as well as our resources as communities,” said James Ramos, Chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. “The San Manuel tribal community is pleased to be able to support local government agencies and the numerous non-profit organizations like the American Red Cross in fulfilling their responsibilities when emergencies

arise.”

Churches in the region have organized a Community Clean-up Day on Tuesday, December 28 and issued a call for volunteers to assist their Highland area neighbors with cleaning up mud and debris from flooded residences and properties. Members of the San Manuel Business Committee will accompany the Red Cross tomorrow to distribute water, snacks and clean-up kits to support the clean up efforts.

San Manuel has a long history of working with the American Red Cross Inland Empire Chapter following natural disasters and emergencies in its home state of California and beyond. A partnership that began following the 9-11 tragedy has seen the tribe contribute millions of dollars to address the immediate needs of disaster relief as well as equipping the American Red Cross Inland Empire Chapter with emergency response vehicles and improved office facilities to increase readiness and service capacity. San Manuel provided funds to the American Red Cross Inland Empire Chapter to support southern California communities swept by wildfires in 2003 and 2007. In 2010 San Manuel contributed \$1.7 million to Haitian earthquake relief and \$320,000 to assist tribes in Nebraska, South Dakota and Arizona with their emergency relief efforts from the 2010 winter storms.

Residents in need assistance are asked to call the American Red Cross at 909-888-1481 during normal business hours or after hours at 1-800-951-5600.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit www.redcross.org or join our blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.

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